

Traffic Commission Minutes
February 14, 2019

The meeting was held at the Department of Public Works, 17 Franey Road

Attendance: Thomas Graney, Lt. Polito, Mark Niedergang, Stan Koty, Lena Webb (5:40)

Staff: Laura Accaputo, Anna Rebelo, Suzanne Rinfret, Nancy Salamoun, Dan Amelin

Other: Lorraine Divasta, Jeanne Divasta, Jerry Ardolino

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Item #1 – Motion to Accept the minutes from the January 10, 2019 Traffic Commission Meeting made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #2 – Request for the removal of 4 residential permit parking spaces on the south side of Washington St, opposite the southern end of Dane St. These spaces will be restricted for No Parking Anytime until the completion of work in Union Square (approximately 6 months)

- Suzanne Rinfret stated Traffic and Parking defers to Engineering.
- Dan Amelin stated this was brought to his attention by the MBTA and the restrictions are necessary for the buses to safely turn from Dane St onto Washington St during the construction in Union Square.

Motion to Approve made by Lt. Polito, 2nd by Councilor Niedergang. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #3 – Request for the temporary removal of 4 parking spaces on Hawkins St (two on each end of the street). These spaces will be restricted for No Parking Anytime until the completion of the work in Union Square (approximately 6 months)

- Dan Amelin stated this request was made on behalf of the Somerville Fire Department and the restrictions are needed so the ladder truck can make the turn onto Hawkins St.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #4 – Request to extend the existing No Parking Here to Corner restriction on the east side of Benton Rd at Summer St from 20ft to 40ft

- The Chair asked where this request came from and Suzanne Rinfret answered it came from Councilor Ewan-Campen, she noted the intersection has a sign posted for the state mandated 20ft restriction to deter people from the Church from parking there. She stated Traffic and Parking is not opposed to the request as long as the Councilor is prepared to deal with any complaints from the neighbors over the loss of a parking space.
- Councilor Niedergang stated he supports the request.

Motion to Approve made by Councilor Niedergang, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #5 – Request for Handicapped Parking

- a) 6 Fountain Av
- b) 24 Otis St

- Nancy Salamoun stated she has reviewed both applications and locations and supports both requests.

Motion to Approve (both) made by Councilor Niedergang, 2nd by Chairman Koty. Motion passed: 4-0.

Motion to suspend the rules and take an item out of order made by Councilor Niedergang, 2nd by Lt. Polito. Motion passed: 4-0.

Item #7 – Review the Handicapped Parking Space at 15 Russell Rd, approved for a 6 month trial period in August 2018

- The applicant stated she has a driveway but needs the space because she uses a walker and can't walk 200ft without resting. The on street space is closer to her door. She also noted all the homes on the street have driveways.
- Nancy Salamoun stated the driveway is narrow and not usable with a walker.
- Gerry Ardolino, 14 Russell Rd, stated he is opposed to the space. There is not much parking on the street and the property has a 2 car driveway. He noted when the sign went up in August the space sat empty for 5 weeks and the applicant does not drive. He regrets having to ask for the space to be removed but believes it should be for the sake of the neighborhood.
- Jeanne Divasta stated the car has to be moved for street cleaning and that the applicant hasn't driven because she had open heart surgery but she does have a current driver's license.
- Councilor Niedergang stated he understands the frustrations of the neighbor but he sides with the applicant and believes she needs assistance from the city.

Motion to Approve for a one year trial period made by Councilor Niedergang, 2nd by Thomas Graney.

- The Chair stated he would be more comfortable with a 6 month trial period.

Councilor Niedergang amended his motion of Approval for a 6 month trial period to be brought back before the commission in August 2019 and all parties will be notified of the meeting date, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #6 – Request to change the parking restrictions on the east side of Dana St (from Pearl St to opposite #14 Dana St) from Resident Permit Parking Only to 4 Hour Parking Except by Permit 8am-2:30am and Resident Permit Parking Only from 2:30am-8am

- Councilor Niedergang stated this request came from Mudville Studios and he supports the request. He noted he will ask for an amendment to the request to extend the restriction as follows: Dana St from Pearl St to Otis St. He stated he has been working with Councilor McLaughlin on this as the existing restrictions were requested by him a few years ago.
- Nan Hamilton, 5 Parker St, of Mudville stated the owner of the gas station is parking cars on the highway side of the street. She explained the Resident Permit Parking Only restriction is not viable as they have classes at the studio.

- Nicole Visnick, 5 Parker St, student of Mudville, stated she supports the request.
- Councilor Niedergang stated the request will not affect the neighbors.

Motion to Approve as amended made by Councilor Niedergang, 2nd by Thomas Graney. Motion passed: 5-0.

Prior Business

Item #8 – Review the Handicapped Parking Space at 37 Ash Av, approved for a 6 month trial period in August 2018

- Traffic and Parking hasn't received any complaints.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #9 – Review the Handicapped Parking Space at 19 Delaware St, approved for a 90 day trial period in October 2018

- Traffic and Parking hasn't received any complaints.

Motion to Approve made by Thomas Graney, 2nd by the Chair. Motion passed: 5-0.

Item #10 – Review the usage data for the Parking for Electronic Vehicles Only/ Charging Station spaces in the Magoun Square Lot

- Suzanne Rinfret stated the Sustainability Department forwarded data showing parking has increased in this space over time.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55pm was made by Lt. Polito, 2nd by Councilor Niedergang. Motion passed: 5-0.